

#### **DeKalb County Zoning Board of Appeals**

Department of Planning & Sustainability 178 Sams Street, Decatur, GA 30030

Wednesday, October 10, 2025



Juliana A. Njoku

Director

Chief Executive Officer

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Planning Department Staff Analysis

N1. Case No: A-25-247824 Parcel ID(s): 18 231 09 008

#### **Commission District 01 Super District 07**

Applicant: Jorge Estevez

2424 King Arthur Circle NE

Atlanta, GA, 30345

Owner: Jorge Estevez & Enrique Betancourt

2424 King Arthur Circle NE

Atlanta, GA 30345

Project Name: 2424 King Arthur Circle – Impervious Surface Variance

**Location**: 2424 King Arthur Circle, Atlanta, GA, 30345

Request: Variance from Section 27-2.2.1 of the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance to increase maximum impervious lot coverage from

35% to 40% to allow the construction of a swimming pool, decking, and associated site improvements within the R-100

(Residential Medium Lot) zoning district.

Staff Recommendation: Denial

Conditions: None

#### **STAFF FINDINGS:**

The applicant requests a variance from Section 27-2.2.1 to increase the allowable impervious surface coverage from 35% to approximately 40% to construct a swimming pool and associated improvements. The property, located at 2424 King Arthur Circle NE, contains an existing single-family home built in 1962. The proposed additions would increase impervious coverage beyond the threshold permitted for the R-100 zoning district.

1. There is an extraordinary or exceptional physical condition(s) pertaining to the particular piece of property (such as, but not limited to, lot size, lot shape, specimen tree(s), steep slope(s), or preservation of historic characteristics of the property), which was not created by the current owner, previous owner, or applicant; by reason of a clearly demonstrable condition(s), the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district, as distinguished from a special privilege or convenience sought by the property owner.

The subject property exhibits mild topographic variation and an existing retaining wall along the rear yard, installed for stormwater management and landscaping purposes. The wall, in combination with a rear grade change and a storm drain easement on the left side, creates moderate constraints on improvement placement that were not caused by the current owner. While these elements qualify as an extraordinary physical condition, the applicant proposes to remove an existing shed and patio on the upper level and replace them with a new concrete pad without demonstrating how this action directly responds to those constraints. Therefore, although the site's drainage and elevation factors warrant consideration, staff finds the proposed design does not justify exceeding the lot coverage limit.

# 2. The requested variance does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief, and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district in which the subject property is located:

The variance does not represent the minimum relief necessary to achieve reasonable use of the property. The proposed 5% increase in impervious coverage results from elective design choices rather than functional necessity. The applicant's request may touch on the stormwater mitigation measures, but the noted impervious additions will contribute to their hardship. The applicant did not provide documentation demonstrating exploration of alternative layouts, materials, or drainage designs that could reduce impervious area while achieving the same outcome. As proposed, the variance extends beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief.

## 3. The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located:

The variance does not represent the minimum relief necessary to achieve reasonable use of the property. The proposed 5% increase in impervious coverage results from elective design choices rather than functional necessity. The applicant did not provide documentation demonstrating exploration of alternative layouts, materials, or drainage designs that could reduce impervious area while achieving the same outcome. The proposed addition may improve functionality without encroaching on privacy, but may negatively affecting surrounding properties, therefore being materially detrimental to public welfare.

## 4. The literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of this chapter would cause undue and unnecessary hardship:

Strict adherence to the zoning ordinance does not impose undue or unnecessary hardship. The property remains fully functional as a single-family residence without the requested variance. The desire to install additional concrete and a swimming pool represents a lifestyle preference, not a hardship under the zoning definition. The applicant retains reasonable use and enjoyment of the property consistent with surrounding homes.

## 5. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this Chapter and the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan Text:

The variance request does not align with the spirit and purpose of the Suburban Character Area of the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan. While the design seeks to mitigate stormwater concerns and enhance the long-term stability of the property, additional improvements may result in the contribution to the stormwater concerns. The addition does not represent a responsible improvement that aligns with the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **FINAL STAFF ANALYSIS:**

The application partially satisfies the variance criteria outlined in Section 27-2.2.1. While the site's retaining wall and associated drainage constraints qualify as an exceptional physical condition, the proposed improvements do not demonstrate the minimum relief necessary to justify exceeding lot coverage limits. The variance, as submitted, exceeds what is required for reasonable use and does not align with the ordinance's intent to balance residential development with preservation. Given the property's lack of demonstrated hardship, staff recommends **denial**.

Staff Recommendation: Denial.

Condition: None.



Development Services Center 178 Sams Street Decatur, GA 30030 www.dekalbcountyga.gov/planning 404-371-2155 (o); 404-371-4556 (f)

Chief Executive Officer Michael Thurmond

#### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Interim Director Cedric Hudson

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING (VARIANCES, SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS, APPEALS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS)

Applica Author	rized Representative:						
	g Address: 2424 King Arthur Circle NE						
	tate/Zip Code: Atlanta, GA 30345						
Email:	Jesteveztv@gmail.com						
Teleph	Jesteveztv@gmail.com  404-983-6364  hone Home: Business:						
OWNER OF RECORD OF SUBJECT PROPERTY							
Owner	Jorge Estevez and Enrique Betancourt						
	ess (Mailing): 2424 King Arthur Circle NE						
Email:	: Jesteveztv@gmail.com Telephone Home: 404-983-6364 Business:						
	ADDRESS/LOCATION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY						
Addre		30345 p:					
	State: GA Zi District(s): 18 Land Lot(s): 231 Block: 09 Parcel: 008						
	Zoning Classification: R-100 Commission District & Super District: Dis. 1 / Super District	Dis.07					
CHECK	CTYPE OF HEARING REQUESTED:						
Χ	VARIANCE (From Development Standards causing undue hardship upon owners of property.)  SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS (To reduce or waive off-street parking or loading space requirements.)						
	OFFICIAL APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS.						

\*PLEASE REVIEW THE FILING GUIDELINES ON PAGE 4. FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES MAY RESULT IN SCHEDULING DELAYS.\*

Email plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov with any questions.



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Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Director Juliana Njoku

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

## PRE-APPLICATION FORM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Applicant Name: Jorge Esteve	Z Phone: 404-983-6364 Email: Jesteveztv@gmail.com
Meeting Information  Date/Time: 10/01/25 @ 10am	Lucas Carter IbCountyGA.gov
District 1	rthur Circle Atlanta, GA 30345
Zoning: R-100	Tax Parcel ID:
	Supplemental Regs:
Proposed Project  Code sections and Amounts seeking a var  We are seeking a variance involvir  The variance request is to increase the back yard.	riance from: ng Section 27-2.2.1 e lot coverage from 35% to 40% based on a renovation project in
Case context and intended project:  The intended project is to enhance value.	e the backyard of the property, add a pool, and increase property



#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION

#### **AUTHORIZATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER**

I hereby authorize the staff and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to inspect the premises of the Subject Property.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the application is true and correct.

I hereby certify that I am the owner of the property subject to the application.							
DATE: 10-13-25	Applicant X Signature:						
DATE:	Applicant Signature:						



### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION

#### AUTHORIZATION TO REPRESENT THE PROPERTY OWNER

I hereby authorize the staff and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to inspect the premises of the Subject Property.

I hereby certify that the information provided in the application is true and correct.

Thereby certify that the information p	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,					
I hereby certify that I am the owner hearing to the ZoningBoard of Apper DATE: 10/14/25  TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  (I)/ (WE): 10 Jorge Estevez	r of the property and that I authorize the als for the requests as shown in this applic Applicant/Agent Signature:	applicant/agent to apply for a ation.  NOT				
(Name of Owners)						
being (owner/owners) of the property described below or attached hereby delegate authority to the above signed agent/applicant.						
	X					
Notary Public	Owner Signature					
Notary Public	Owner Signature					
Notary Public	Owner Signature					

Subject: Variance Request to add more impervious ground cover

Dear members of the Zoning Board of Appeals:

My name is Jorge Estevez, and I am writing to request a variance for my newly designed backyard which includes, a pool, native Georgian landscaping and additional decking.

My request pertains to increasing the amount of impervious decking by 5% from 35% to just below 40%. The purpose of the request is to allow to enhance my backyard space, improve the value of the property all while taking into consideration the needs of my neighbors when it comes to adequate storm drainage which is also featured in this design.

I went back and forth several times to make sure that the combination of the pool, decking, landscaping and drainage did not only add to my property value, but also kept well within the spirit of the intended zoning laws laid out by the county even after my home was built in 1962. I have a pretty odd shaped lot size and therefore the design was a challenge. However, I feel as though, with a bit of a variance, we could make it work for everyone.

#### 1 Physical Conditions of Site

I do love my property, but it is an oddly shaped lot as you can tell by the survey. I had to play with angles for landscaping, symmetry and proper drainage. My home was built in 1962 which is well before the Zoning laws which were updated in 2015. The previous owners also built on an addition which takes up even more space of the backyard and limits the amount of functional outdoor space for a pool, decking and firepit. These were conditions that are out of my hands which is why I made it a point to make sure I designed the best use of my backyard taking all into consideration.

#### 2 Minimum Variance Necessary

I have requested what I deem to be a minimal change to the Impervious law based on the challenges I face with my lot lines and slope. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> rendition of this plan as we kept cutting, limiting, reworking the deck space. I am adding green space. My plan is to replace pine straw areas with even more grass to enhance the look and functionality of the ground. I am also removing a shed that was already built when I bought the house. The shed was built too close to the back line of my property. My goal is to return my property to its proper setbacks for the next owner.

#### 3 Public Welfare

I am working to make sure that the variance to the intended impervious code does not negatively impact my neighbors. As part of the pool project, I am also adding storm drainage as pictured in this application. I am working with a landscaper who designed a flow well system to capture any run-off and direct the water to the appropriate underground drainage system. Currently, there is no drainage system and the property relies on its slope to keep the water moving. As far as public welfare, I have thrown neighborhoods gatherings in the past but have been limited by space and now with the expansion of the backyard and additional decking, I can utilize the space throughout the year to increase the gatherings and the neighborhood camaraderie.

#### 4 Ordinance Hardship

The reality is that the enforcement of this code and its 35% limitation of impervious material would really hamper the spirit of my project. I have returned several times with various designs to maximize the space while asking to exceed the limit by 5%. Because the house was built in 1962 and an addition was added in the 90's by the previous owner, any significant project to enhance the property would require a variance.

#### 5 Alignment with the Spirit of the Law

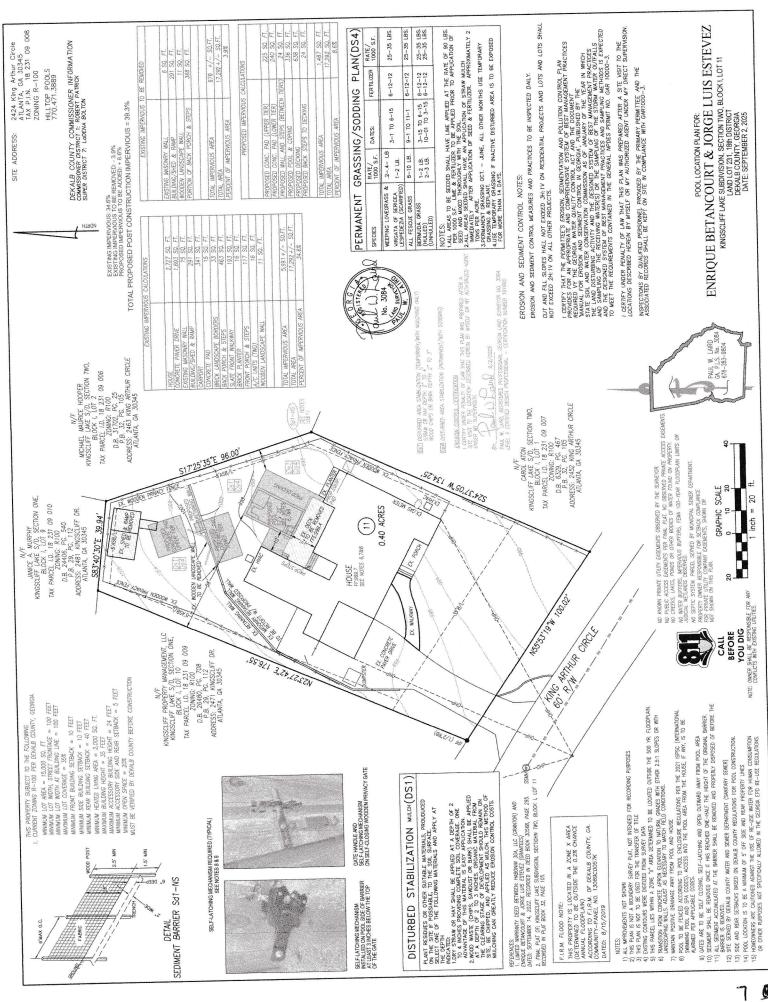
My request keeps with the intention of the law in that it makes sure we do our best as homeowners to bring our properties up to code. I am asking for a variance but adding a drainage system as per code. I am also removing a shed that is currently not in compliance that was built prior to my purchasing the property. I am improving the aesthetics of the property and hence increasing its property value. Any future projects by individual homeowners should provide better community connectivity while preserving and enhancing existing greenspace. I plan to do all those things within the confounds of my property lines as allowed by law.

I am so glad I got the chance to present these findings to you and the rest of the board. I hope my vision is clear and my intent is transparent.

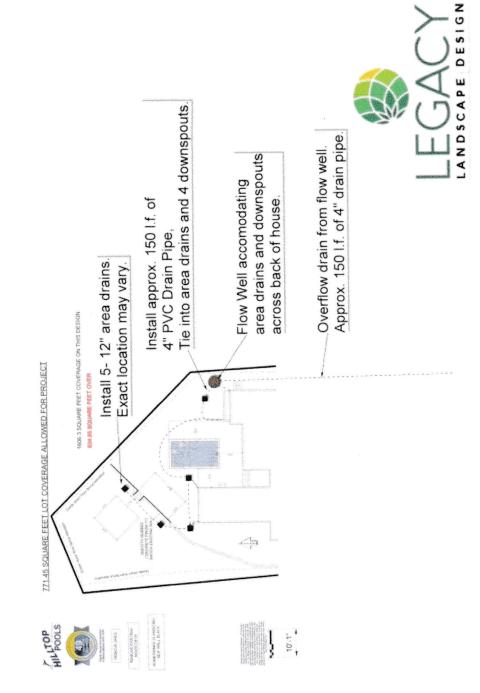
Jorge Estevez

404-983-6364

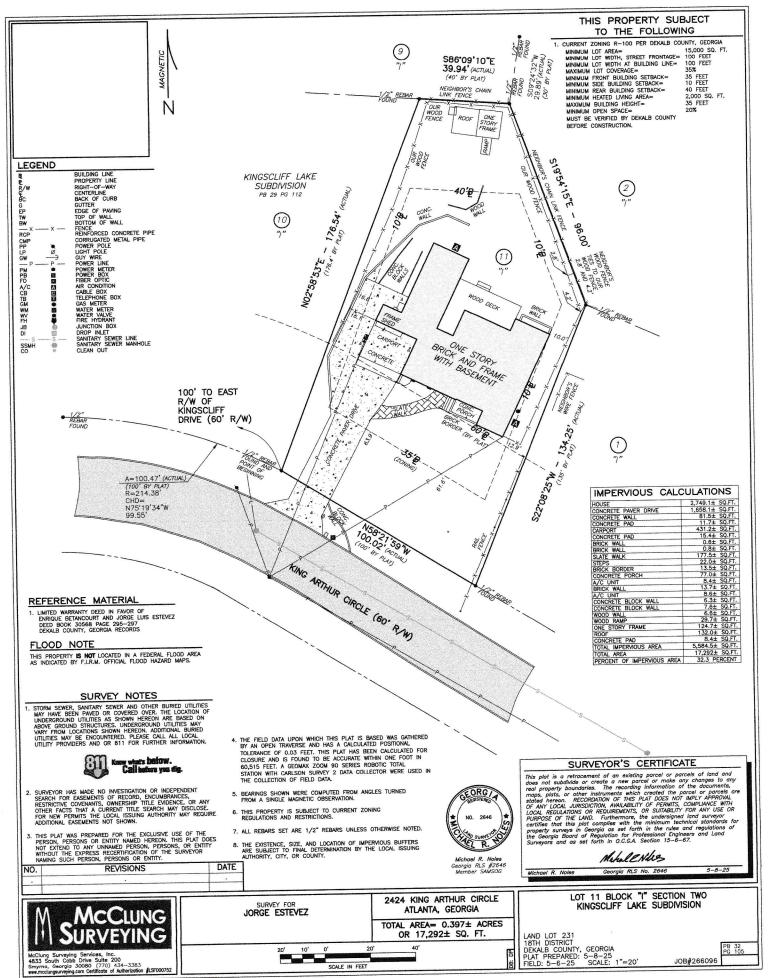
jesteveztv@gmail.com

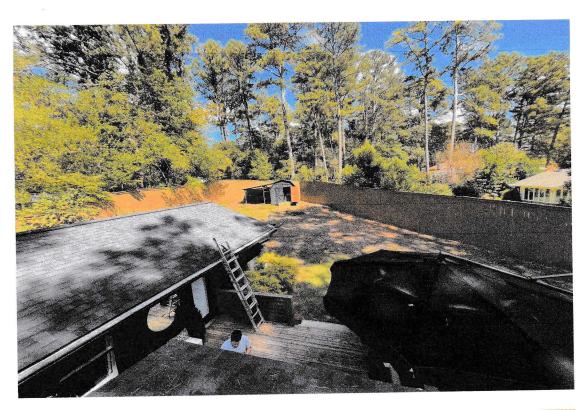


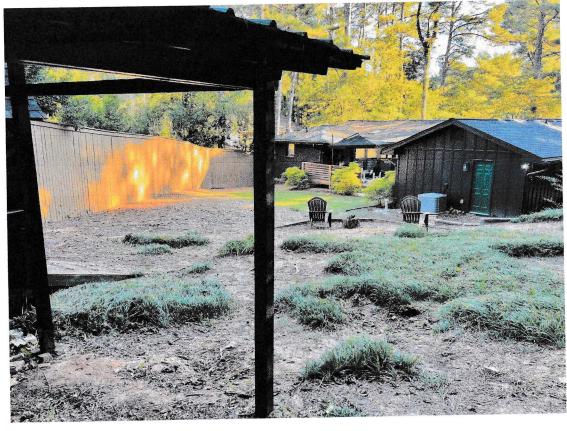
Jorge Estevez 2424 King Arthur Cir. NE Atlanta, GA 30345 404-983-6364 jesteveztv@gmail.com

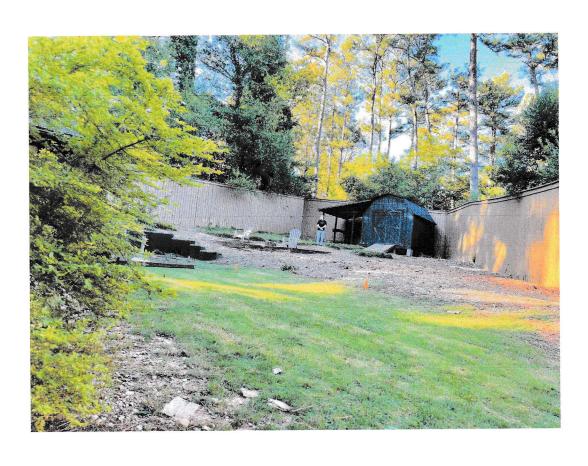


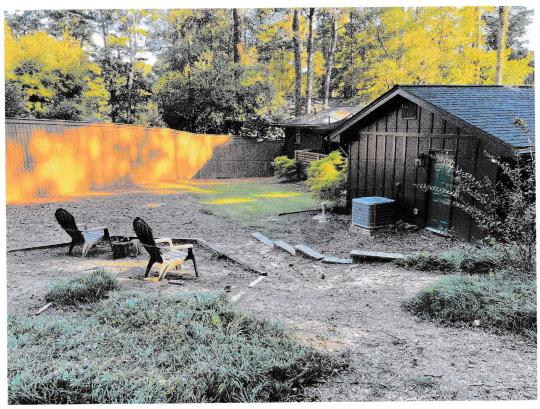
Plan by Mark Schisler 404-456-9094











Attention: DeKalb County Zoning Board

I live directly across the street from Enrique and Jorge and I follow their efforts to continuously improve their property. I completely support their Pool Project in their backyard. I know they are increasing their impervious allowance by 5 percent with their new plan, but I also am aware they are removing a storage structure that does not currently meet code.

I feel they are trying to bring their property up to code more than they are trying to take away from the spirit in which the land use laws intended.

Sincerely, am (+. Miller

Ann H. Miller

2419 King Arthur Circle N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30345

10/13/2025

attention: Detall county 3 oning Boack

Dwart to support my newspoor,

Jory Estevez + Envigue Betancemet

in their appeal to the Zerry Board as

in their appeal to the Zerry Board it relates to their backgood project!

I are away that their design for their pool involves adding an additional 590 which is once the limit for the project.

Which is once the dead shape of their lat But given the odd shape of their lat and the parenter they are working with, and the parenter they are working with, and the parenter above and beyond to compromise. They have gone above and beyond to compromise.

Please allow this project to be completed.

Short yn yn yn christeratin.

Janey W. Harte Nancy W. Harte 2443 Konsorliff Dr. axl. Da 30345

# Amy and John McMillen 2470 King Arthur Cir Atlanta GA 30345

October 14, 2025

Dear DeKalb County Zoning Board:

I would like to share my complete approval of my neighbor's Jorge Estevez and Enrique Betancourt's pool project in their back yard. I know they are increasing their impervious allowance by 5% with their new plan, but I am also aware they are removing a storage structure that does not currently meet code.

I feel as though they are bringing their property up to code more than they are trying to take away from the spirit in which the land use laws were intended.

They are wonderful neighbors and we fully support their undertaking.

Thank you.

Amy & John McMillen

October 14, 2025

To: Dekalb County Zoning Board

Re: Support for Variance Request at 2424 King Arthur Circle Northeast

I'm writing to express my full support for my neighbors' proposed pool and decking project at 2424 King Arthur Circle Northeast.

Having lived near this property since they moved in, I have consistently found them to be responsible and considerate homeowners. They have completed previous home improvement projects with professionalism and consideration of their neighbors.

I'm confident this project will enhance both their property and our neighborhood. One example of this: they are addressing drainage concerns proactively by incorporating proper stormwater management solutions to offset the increased impervious surface coverage.

Their track record demonstrates that they will complete this project responsibly and in compliance with all county regulations.

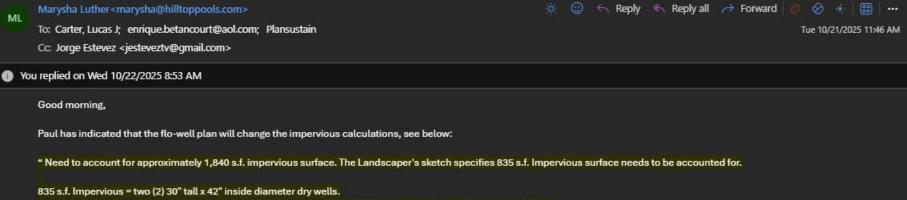
Sincerely,

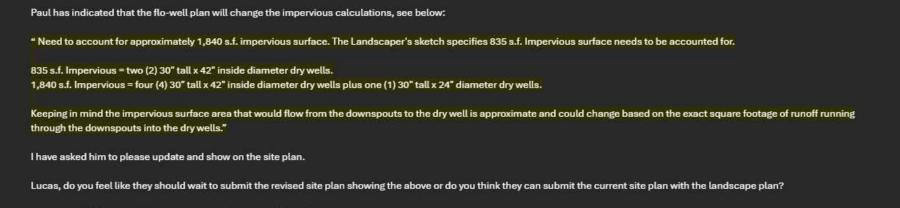
Michelle Goss 2473 King Arthur Cir Atlanta, GA 30345

#### 10-13-2025

I live right next to Jorge Estevez and Enrique Betancourt on King Arthur Circle in Dekalb County. Their backyard project is okay with me and I fully support Board approval. I think it will enhance property values in the neighborhood. I know that they are careful to follow the law as intended, and have added pavers and decking to improve safety. This does go over the allowed 35% but only by 5% and is totally a good compromise given the odd size and placement of their lot. Please give careful consideration to their request knowing they have done their very best to work within the given parameters.

Carol Aton 2452 King Arthur Circle Atlanta GA 30345





I have a lot of phone meetings today, so email me your thoughts. Thank you,

Marysha